GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:469
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
SUPPLY OF SUGAR TO POORS THROUGH PDS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to supply sugar from the Public Distribution System only to the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of people living below poverty line in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the present criteria of treating a person as living below the poverty line?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): Government has decided to restructure the Public Distribution System (PDS) in so far as supply of levy sugar is concerned. Income tax assesses and members of their families were excluded from the purview of the PDS levy sugar with effect from July, 2000. The supply of levy sugar under the PDS has been restricted, with effect from 1.2.2001, to thepeople below poverty line except in North-Eastern States/Hill States/ Island territories, where the existing arrangements would continue.However, minimum per capita per month quantum of levy sugar under the PDS has been increased from 425 gms to 500 gms, which would benefit thepeople below poverty line.

(c) A statement indicating the estimated number of BPL household living below poverty line in the country, state-wise, as on 1.3.2000, is placed at Annexure.

(d) The number of BPL families has been worked out on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of `Export Group onEstimates of Proportion and Number of Poor` constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala (Expert Group).

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 469 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 23-02-2001.

A STATEMENT SHOWING THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE IN THE COUNTRY

(In lakh)

State/UT	Number of BPL Households as on 01.03.2000
Andhra Pradesh	40.63
Arunachal Pradesh	00.99
Assam	18.36
Bihar	89.17
Goa	00.48
Gujarat	21.20
Haryana	07.89
Himachal Pradesh	05.14
Jammu & Kashmir	07.36
Karnataka	31.29
Kerala	15.54
Madhya Pradesh	60.01
Maharashtra	65.34
Manipur	01.66

Meghalaya	01.83
Mizoram	00.68
Nagaland	01.24
Orissa	32.98
Punjab	04.68
Rajasthan	24.31
Sikkim	00.43
Tamilnadu	48.63
Tripura	02.95
Uttar Pradesh	111.77
West Bengal	51.79
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	00.28
Chandigarh	00.23
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	00.18
Daman & Diu	00.04
Delhi	04.09
Lakshadweep	00.03
Pondicherry	00.84

Total: 652.04